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# WEEKLY REVIEW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: SEP 1999

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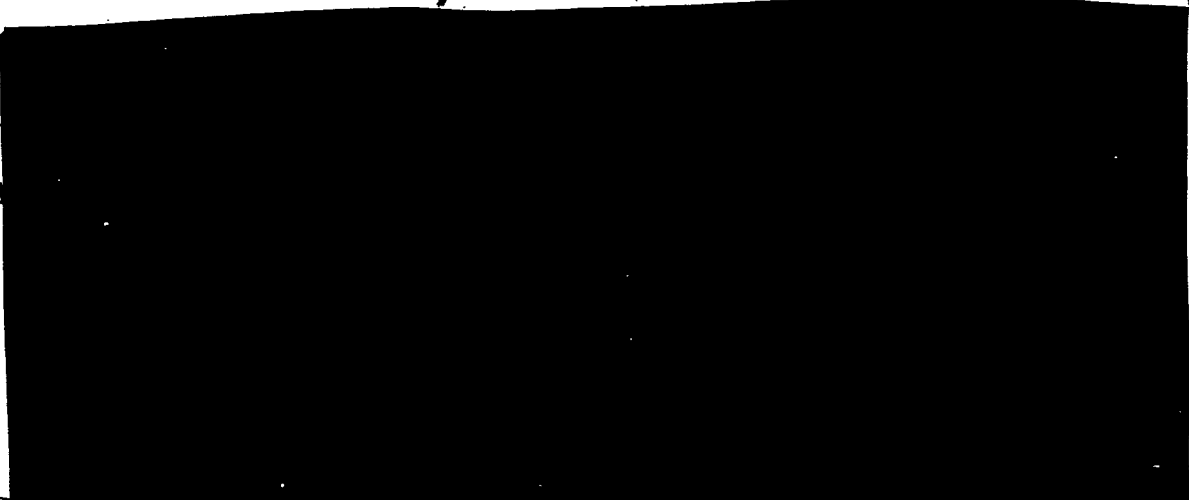
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CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ARRESTS PLOTTERS

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### CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ARRESTS PLOTTERS

On 25 March the Chilean Government arrested a group of retired and active military men on charges of plotting to overthrow the administration of President Eduardo Frei. More than a dozen officers and noncommissioned officers were held. The leader of the plot was retired General Horacia Gamboa. General Roberto Viaux, who led the unsuccessful army mutiny in October 1969, has denied any connection with the plotters, but he may have been involved indirectly.

The plotters apparently were fairly well advanced in their planning. It is unlikely, however, that they would have received much support had they decided to move, as neither the navy nor the air force was connected to the conspiracy.

The move by the government, which had known about the group since mid-February, apparently

was prompted by army commander in chief Schneider. The interior minister had wanted to wait and arrest more conspirators. The government may have acted partly in the hope of influencing the Senate, which is to decide soon on impeachment charges against Defense Minister Ossa. He was suspended last week from his duties by the Chamber of Deputies for paying pensions in installments rather than in a lump sum, as demanded by Congress. Foreign Minister Valdes has assumed Ossa's portfolio pending Senate action.

There is no evidence that Gamboa was involved with any political party, although he holds extreme right-wing political views. Leftists have accused him of having ties with Jorge Alessandri, the independent conservative candidate for the presidential election in September.

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